



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

PALM VIEW MAN SENTENCED TO 13 YEARS FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug trafficker is also wanted for capital murder and is awaiting trial

MCALLEN, Texas — A Palm View resident was sentenced Monday to 13 years in federal prison for drug trafficking, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Francisco Longoria, 44, pleaded guilty June 6 to possessing more than 1,100 pounds of marijuana with intent to distribute. Prior to his arrest, agents linked him to at least eight other drug-trafficking loads, resulting in a combined seizure of 3,170 pounds of marijuana, 40 pounds of cocaine and \$46,000 in U.S. currency.

In addition to his drug-trafficking prison sentence, Longoria also faces a state capital murder charge. Court documents state that Longoria allegedly ordered the execution of a narcotics trafficking associate. The capital murder charge is still pending in state court in Hidalgo County, Texas.

ICE McAllen special agents arrested Longoria in December 2004 at the Hidalgo Bridge Port of Entry as he was re-entering the United States. During routine inspection, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officers discovered he had arrest warrant pending. He was taken into custody and turned over to agents for further processing.

“The sentencing of Francisco Longoria, a dangerous drug trafficker, is yet another example of the unprecedented law enforcement dedication and cooperation between the U.S. Attorney’s Office and our ICE agents to bring these criminals to justice,” said Jerry Robinette, the ICE San Antonio deputy special agent-in-charge. “We will continue with our law enforcement partners to ensure that drug traffickers like Longoria experience the full weight of the law.”

ICE continues to pursue other associates linked to Longoria’s drug-trafficking organization.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.